

VII. APPLICATION EVALUATION SYSTEM

A. STEERING COMMITTEE REVIEW

The Steering Committee will undertake a qualitative review assisted by State staff. The Steering Committee will base its deliberations on the rating system and select the strongest proposals from comparable groupings of activities. The Steering Committee's recommendations to the Governor should reflect a reasonable balance between community development needs and effective competitiveness of individual project proposals.

The review will consist of a project by project analysis grouped by activity type (ie. Neighborhood Revitalization Programs, Housing Rehabilitation, Housing Development, Economic Development, Public Services/Facilities and Planning). The Steering Committee will weigh its consideration on the following priorities - neighborhood/community revitalization, housing, and economic development. The analysis will consider: 1) cost effectiveness of the proposal, including leveraged funds; 2) extent to which the proposed activities address community development needs identified by the community in the Community Development Plan; 3) extent to which the activity represents a coordinated approach to community/neighborhood revitalization; and 4) adequacy of the proposed management plan as well as prior program performance, including resolution of monitoring or audit findings.

Final awards by the Governor shall be based on the recommendations of the Steering Committee. Modification to the recommendations may be made based on the following criteria:

- 1) The recommendations are not consistent with this program Action Plan as contained in the State's Consolidated Plan.
- 2) Activities conflict with other State projects or priorities.
- 3) Activities duplicate other State projects.

B. SMALL CITY ENTITLEMENTS

Small City Entitlement Distribution System

In FY'2005, the State will continue it's Small City CDBG Entitlement program. Under this program, \$400,000 will be distributed to each community which qualifies as a small city entitlement. Funds will be distributed for eligible CDBG activities consistent with the State's Action Plan in the municipality's predominately low/moderate income areas, which meet minimum concentration requirements [minimum of 900 LMI individuals in area {LMI block group/survey area/contiguous LMI block groups}].

The State promotes comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategies. Under this program, CDBG and other resources will be invested in a focused manner to achieve demonstrable improvements in designated distressed areas.

Various criteria have been utilized in designating Small City CDBG Entitlement communities. It will be determined which communities are eligible to receive a Small City entitlement by the total number and percentage as well as concentration of low/moderate income persons in areas within the municipality. Specifically, a community must have: 1) a Census Tract/block Group area (may be contiguous CT/BGs) with a concentration of low/moderate income persons exceeding 2000 and 2) the community must have, in total, at least 5000 low/moderate income persons in predominately (at least 50%) low/moderate income CT/BG areas.

To ensure targeting of CDBG resources to the most needy areas, all funds distributed on an entitlement basis must be expended in the focus area(s) that meet the criteria established by the State as outlined above. It is this distressed area(s) which is empowering the municipality to become a Small City CDBG Entitlement and therefore should be the area(s) concentrated upon for distribution of entitlement funds.

Receipt of a Small City CDBG Entitlement award is contingent upon the completion of local plans, outlining the needs of the municipality's distressed area(s) and how proposed actions can be accomplished to address those needs. Expenditure of entitlement funds must be based on this plan for the designated area(s).

The State reserves the right to review the plan, as required above, to make changes as deemed necessary or appropriate and to make any entitlement funds received contingent upon the State's approval of such plan.

The balance of State Small Cities CDBG funds will be distributed to communities for activities on a competitive basis.

C. EVALUATION SCORING SYSTEM

To assist the Program Steering Committee in its review of applications, an evaluation and scoring system will be applied to each application. The following general areas of each application will be covered in this system.

- Part I General Community Needs
- Part II Estimated Program Impacts

Each application will be scored during staff review and the final evaluations will be made available to the Committee to assist the Committee in arriving at recommendations.

Part I GENERAL COMMUNITY NEEDS (50% of Rating)

POPULATION

Population

0 to 50 points - low number to high number.

FAMILY INCOME

Percent of households with annual income below HUD's LMI levels.

0 to 25 points - low percent to high percent.

Number of households with annual income below HUD's LMI levels.

0 to 25 points - low number to high number.

HOUSING STOCK

Housing Conditions as defined by Consolidated Plan.

0 to 25 points - low percent of units with problems to
 high percent of units with problems.

Housing Affordability

0 to 25 points - low percentage of housing affordable to
 high percentage of housing affordable.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Percent of Population Receiving Public Assistance.

0 to 25 points - low percent to high percent.

Percent of Population Unemployed.

0 to 25 points - low percent to high percent.

PER CAPITA/PROPERTY VALUE INDICATORS

Per Capita Income

0 to 25 points - high income to low income.

Percent of Personal Income to Full Value of Property:

0 to 12.5 points - low percent to high percent.

(Computed by multiplying the per capita income by the most recent population estimate and dividing the result by the full value of property)

Per Capita Full Value of Property:

0 to 12.5 points - high value to low value.

(Full value of the property divided by the population)

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Part II ANTICIPATED PROJECT BENEFITS (50% of rating)

a) Economic Development (Up to 250 Points)

Economic Development Activities will be rating relative to one another in this category.

- 1) Ratio of Community Development dollars to be spent/Number of full-time equivalent permanent jobs to be created or retained.

(Up to 150 Points)

The number of jobs created will be based on the adequacy of documented commitments, the documentation of efforts to assure availability of jobs for low/moderate income persons, or on requirements to be included in the program design for revolving funds.

- 2) Ratio of Community Development dollars/Private Investment leveraged. (Up to 25 Points)

Leveraged funds are those which become available as a result of the implementation of this project. Funds which are already available or which would be available in the absence of this project will not be considered as leveraged funds. The amount of private investment will be based on the firm financial commitments of private funds to be spent on the project.

- 3) Community Revitalization (Up to 25 Points)

Up to 25 points will be awarded based upon the extent to which this activity is involved in a community/neighborhood revitalization effort. This criteria will also take into account State recognized Enterprise Zones and the projects' consistency with the State Consolidated Plan.

- 4) Community Priority (Up to 50 Points)

Up to 50 points will be awarded based upon the community priority ranking of the specific activity in the application.

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- b) Housing (Up to 250 Points)
Housing activities will be rated relative to one another.
- 1) Ratio of Community Development Funds/Number of Units to be Provided. (Up to 150 Points)
(Rehabilitation and Dev't Proposals will be ranked seperately)
(Activities which provide assistance between \$1-\$15,000 per unit will ranked equally under this criteria. This provision is intended to promote comprehensive rehabilitation of structures assisted)
 - 2) Past Performance (Up to 50 Points)
Up to 50 points will be awarded based upon the past performance of the Town. This will include whether the town has participated in a Housing Consortium and the percentage of previous two years rehabilitation funds drawn/committed.
 - 3) Community Priority (Up to 25 Points)
Up to 25 points will be awarded bason upon the community priority ranking of the specific activity in the application.
 - 4) Community Revitalization (Up to 25 Points)
Up to 25 points will be awarded based upon the extent to which this activity is involved in a community/neighborhood revitalization effort. This criteria will also take into account State recognized Enterprise Zones and the projects' consistency with the State Consolidated Plan.
 - 5) Up to 10 bonus point will be provided to any community whose CDBG-funded rehabilitation program design includes a Loan component.
- c) Community Facilities and Services (Up to 150 Points)
- 1) Ratio of Community Development Funds/Number of Low/Moderate persons to be served. (Up to 100 Points)
 - 2) Community Priority (Up to 25 Points)
Up to 25 points will be awarded bason upon the community priority ranking of the specific activity in the application.

3) Community Revitalization (Up to 25 Points)

Up to 25 points will be awarded based upon the extent to which this activity is involved in a community/neighborhood revitalization effort. This criteria will also take into account State recognized Enterprise Zones and the projects' consistency with the State Consolidated Plan.

d) Prevention or Elimination of Slums and Blight
(Up to 75 Points)

- 1) Activities will be rated relative to one another based on the total number of dilapidated structures or blighting influences to be rehabilitated, demolished, acquired, etc. and the number and percent of structures in a designated area which are deteriorating or dilapidated.
(Up to 50 Points)

2) Community Priority (Up to 12.5 Points)

Up to 12.5 points will be awarded based upon the community priority ranking of the specific activity in the application.

3) Community Revitalization (Up to 12.5 Points)

Up to 12.5 points will be awarded based upon the extent to which this activity is involved in a community/neighborhood revitalization effort. This criteria will also take into account State recognized Enterprise Zones and the projects' consistency with the State Consolidated Plan.

e) Urgent Community Development Needs(Up to 50 Points)

Activities will be rated based on the extent to which the serious and immediate threat is documented and will be eliminated, and the adequacy of documentation that the condition developed or became critical within the last 18 months. Rating will also be based on the adequacy of documentation that the community is unable to finance the activity on its own and other resources are not available.

f) Planning (Up to 50 Points)

(Up to 50 Points)

- 1) Up to 20 points will be awarded based upon the total number and percentage of low/moderate individuals located in the area to be served by this planning activity. (Up to 20 Points)

- 2) Community Priority (Up to 15 Points)

Up to 15 points will be awarded based upon the community priority ranking of the specific activity in the application.

- 3) Community Revitalization (Up to 15 Points)

Up to 15 points will be awarded based upon the extent to which this activity is involved in a community/neighborhood revitalization effort. This criteria will also take into account whether the projects is located or serves an Enterprise Zone/Enterprise Community, the projects consistency with the State Consolidated Plan's housing/non-housing community development needs, and the extent of the project's involvement in a comprehensive community/neighborhood revitalization effort.

A multi-purpose application will be scored under each applicable subpart (A, B, C, D, E and F) and the scores proportioned according to the percent of total funds allocated to each type of activity.

In addition to the scoring of anticipated program benefits, all activities will be evaluated based on the status of planning, program design and engineering to assure feasibility and realistic cost estimates.

Up to 5 Bonus Points will be added to the total score of communities that employ the handicapped or minorities in CDBG agencies and to communities that award contracts to minority and female business enterprises.

Up to 5 Bonus Points may be awarded to communities whose activities closely implement goals or priorities of the local Comprehensive Community Plan.

Extra consideration will be provided to applications which document the community (or agencies within the community's application) has staff who have completed the University of Rhode Island, Community Development Certificate Training program.

